

In the only place where such a thing could exist

THE PROPHET

"BRAVEHEART for modern times."



Written & Directed by MELISSA FRANCIS Starring EREZ ESHEL
Cinematography AMIR SHEINBAUM Original Music & Mix ROMAN ZEITLIN
Edit MATT SHAPIRO Post Production THE POST CREW /MICHELLE BELLAFF
Executive Producer MELISSA FRANCIS WRAY THORN JOE LUBECK

THE FILM

A mighty warrior battles to save his country from an existential threat—only to discover that the true danger lies within.

SYNOPSIS

On October 6, Erez Eshel warns his son, “Be alert—something big is coming tomorrow.” At 6:30am the next morning, his son confirms the premonition with a phone call. Eshel throws on his military uniform and races to Gaza to fight side by side with his sons. For the next two years, he is consumed by war, determined to protect his people and bring everyone home. Then, a stunning reversal: Eshel is accused by name of genocide by the International Criminal Court and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Intercut with the 1990 documentary TO BE AN OFFICER—where the then twenty-year-old Eshel stars as an idealistic trainee—THE PROPHET traces his transformation from hopeful believer to battle-hardened soldier, mentor, and teacher. Blending intimate access with political urgency and spiritual depth, the film confronts a timeless question:

**What is the price of freedom—
and who is willing to pay?**

THE PROPHET, written and directed by award-winning journalist and best-selling author Melissa Francis, will open in theaters across America in 2026.

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

TITLE	THE PROPHET
RUNTIME	1:21:44
GENRE	Documentary · Biopic · Faith · Inspirational · War · Jewish · Middle East
STATUS	Completed — U.S. theatrical release 2026
TRAILER	youtu.be/ZzyhGaCW7wE
SCREENER	simian.me/PQvE_06_04_The_Prophet_mp4
PRODUCTION CO.	Sailfish Productions

EREZ ESHEL

SOLDIER · COMMANDER · TEACHER · MENTOR · PHILOSOPHER · FATHER

"To understand Erez, is to understand Israel herself."

MELISSA FRANCIS, DIRECTOR

IN HIS OWN WORDS

"You see a crisis. I see a challenge. You see something broken. I see a new mission."

"Leadership is when you face your identity. Who you are. The real story of your life."

"A prophecy is the ability of seeing. Everyone can develop the ability of seeing."

"The land of Israel is the land of prophecy. It is the ability to see nothing and to know there will be something. And there will be something great. As long as we keep our values."

"One of the weakest muscles of men is taking responsibility. Men love authority. They love power. But to take responsibility is the moment where you are willing to pay a price."

THEN & NOW



1990 Eshel, age 20, in TO BE AN OFFICER.



TODAY Eshel leading a summit in the Jordan River Valley.

VOICES FROM THE FILM

RAVID ELFASSI · Former Ein Prat student

"We are not [fighting a war] because we hate them. We are here because we love our people back home, and we are willing to die to defend them."

MATI SHOSHANI · Warrior and journalist

"We chose to ignore the truth. Iran said for decades, we will kill Israel, we will kill the Americans — yet we chose to ignore it. October 7th was what every people needs: a moment of pain and humiliation to remember what's true and what's important."

REUVEN TAUB · Former Ein Prat student

"It's a global issue that everyone is going through, where they're searching for an answer. Who are we in the world? What is it that binds us together as a people? And what is our big story that moves us forwards?"

ASHER KATZ · Former Ein Prat student

"The vision of Jerusalem, which is very unique to Judaism, is that it says many nations will come to the house of God."

"Be alert—something big is coming tomorrow."

EREZ ESHEL TO HIS SON, OCTOBER 6



Erez Eshel with his son, Yoel.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I didn't go to Israel to make a documentary.

I went because, after decades as a reporter, something had happened that had never happened before in my career. I could no longer tell where the truth ended and the narrative began.

My colleagues were reporting one story. Survivors were telling another. International organizations were issuing declarations. Videos flooded every screen. Confidence was nowhere to be found.

I realized I couldn't report this story from a newsroom. My husband looked at me and said, "Get on a plane."

So I did. I packed little more than my iPhone, a notebook, and an overwhelming number of questions. I wasn't looking to make a documentary. I was looking for the truth.



FINDING THE PROPHET

Among the many people I met, one man stood apart. Erez Eshel. If Erez didn't exist, someone would have to invent him. In fifty-six years, he has lived what feels like a thousand lives. Soldier. Commander. Teacher. Mentor. Philosopher. Father.

Through him, I began to understand not only October 7, but the decades that came before it and the wars that have followed since. To understand Erez is to understand Israel herself—her people's history, fears, hopes, and the responsibilities they believe come with survival.

WITNESS

We were often in danger—from ballistic missile strikes to encounters with terrorists—but fear rarely entered my mind. I was too consumed by the responsibility of witnessing what was happening. Some stories demand to be told. This felt like one of them.

THE PROPHET is not an attempt to end a debate. It is an invitation to look more deeply, one that leaves audiences asking better questions than the ones they arrived with.

I hope that by telling the true story of a real person—imperfect and heroic at once—viewers will begin to think about this not as a religious or political struggle, but as the daily life of real human beings.

History is ultimately lived by human beings—not headlines.

MAKING THE FILM

What began as reporting gradually became filmmaking. I started with an iPhone because that was supposed to be enough. I simply wanted to document what I was seeing while I searched for answers. Very quickly, I realized the story unfolding around me was far larger than anything I could capture alone.

That's when I found my Director of Photography, Amir Sheinbaum. Amir is an extraordinary visual artist. He is also a warrior who served in Erez's unit. There was an immediate trust between us. He shared extraordinary footage he had captured while serving, allowing the film to become something neither of us could have created independently.

I've often asked Amir what it feels like to shoot while shooting. The same word describes both acts. He tells me that even in the middle of battle, surrounded by chaos, he becomes overwhelmed by the images around him. Even with a rifle in his hands, he cannot help reaching for his iPhone.

Some people are compelled to fight.
Others are compelled to bear witness.
Amir somehow did both.



Amir Sheinbaum filming Erez Eshel on location.

THE DIRECTOR'S CALL TO ACTION

Since October 7, veteran journalist Melissa Francis has been on the ground—reporting from the war and cutting through the noise around Israel and antisemitism.

Now she's created **THE PROPHET**—not just a documentary, but a powerful experience designed to reach hearts beyond headlines and debates. Through raw storytelling and firsthand insight, it reveals the people, resilience, and shared values at the center of the story.

Melissa is neither Jewish nor Muslim. She began without bias—only to find a calling: to confront the fog of misinformation in America and fight for truth, for our children and our future.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



MELISSA FRANCIS

WRITER · DIRECTOR · EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Melissa Francis has spent more than three decades reporting from the front lines of global events before becoming one of America's most recognized television journalists.

She anchored programs for CNBC and MSNBC before joining FOX News Channel, where she hosted Money with Melissa Francis, After the Bell, and co-hosted Outnumbered.

Throughout her journalism career she also wrote for The Wall Street Journal and authored two bestselling books, Lessons from the Prairie and Diary of a Stage Mother's Daughter.

Before journalism, Melissa built a successful acting career beginning at six months old in a Johnson & Johnson commercial. She later appeared in more than one hundred commercials, three feature films, and numerous television productions, becoming best known for portraying Cassandra Cooper Ingalls on Little House on the Prairie.

A graduate of Harvard University with a degree in Economics, Melissa now leads Sailfish Productions, where she combines investigative journalism with long-form documentary storytelling.

THE PROPHET is her feature documentary directorial debut.



Francis and Sheinbaum in the Gaza Envelope.

"We have all learned that video, stills, images, can't be trusted. I needed to see with my own eyes. That's when I met Erez."

MELISSA FRANCIS

STILLS

High-resolution images available on request.



Erez Eshel with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



Melissa Francis embedded with Israeli troops.



Mount Aharon, above the Dead Sea.



Eshel and Francis on Mount Aharon.



Eshel with cinematographer Amir Sheinbaum.



Francis and Sheinbaum shooting above the Dead Sea.

STILLS (CONTINUED)



Erez Eshel in the Jordan Valley.



Eshel on Israeli Independence Day.



Eshel at Ein Prat.



Francis in the Gaza Envelope.



Eshel in uniform.



The production team, Jordan Valley.

CREDITS

DIRECTED BY	MELISSA FRANCIS
WRITTEN BY	MELISSA FRANCIS
STARRING	EREZ ESHEL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	MELISSA FRANCIS · WRAY THORN · JOE LUBECK
DIRECTOR OF CINEMATOGRAPHY	AMIR SHEINBAUM
EDIT BY	MATT SHAPIRO
ORIGINAL MUSIC & MIX	ROMAN ZEITLIN
POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR	MICHELLE BELLAFF
POST PRODUCTION	THE POST CREW
PRODUCTION COMPANY	SAILFISH PRODUCTIONS



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